chapters dealing with personal histories, Bonta further divides each into sections, the first few serving as stand-alone examples of what in the latter sections he takes apart and reflects on in his own voice.

Chapter two establishes the geographical and historical background of the region and its bird population, acknowledging these features as among the most important contributors to the varying relationships with birds. Chapter three takes into account that Honduras is a male-dominated society and the more obvious facets of relationships with birds are not the only ones; women and children are given voices to share their perceptions of the issue. Chapter four lays bare the situation within Juticalpa, an urban center in Olancho, using case studies of two birds, the *zopilote* (Black Vulture) and the *zorzal* (Clay-colored Robin). Chapter five brings up the capacity in which large landowners act as conservationists, contrary to general expectation. Chapter six presents the other side of chapter four, highlighting the rural landscape of small domestic and individual villages and farmers, where biodiversity is highest and may be most easily conserved. Chapter seven exposes Honduras as a country where the majority of soil cover is not rainforest, and where many species requiring the attention of conservationists do not make their homes in virgin rainforest. Other marginalized species are also dealt with, such as those that are nocturnal. Chapter eight is a case study centered about the montane rainforest of Montaña de Babilonia. In chapter nine Bonta presents several proposals regarding the conservation geography of Honduran avifauna, with the intent for broader applications.

Perhaps the message which Bonta intends be taken home is that the destruction in the Neotropics is not accomplished with clear and purposeful intent, but rather as a side effect of certain socio-economic factors. Therefore, to lessen its impact, we must take a "geographical approach to conservation that cuts across artificial boundaries separating what is 'natural' from what is 'cultural' in the landscape" (p.3). While the theme of conservation geography is implied throughout the book, it is only in the last chapter where it is dealt with directly, and where it ceases to merely be an "ethnography of birds." The book does not resort to scientific and technical terms and therefore is easily understood; it is for a general audience interested in avifauna, conservation, and the idea of a "cultural landscape."—*Tiana Franklin, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan St, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A., tfranklin@brit.org.*

PAUL E. MINNIS (Ed.). 2003. **People and Plants in Ancient Eastern North America.** (ISBN 1-58834-133-X, pbk.). Smithsonian Institution Press, 750 Ninth Street NW, Suite 4300, Washington, DC 20560-0950, U.S.A. (Orders: 202-275-2300, http://www.sipress.si.edu/). $34.95, 423 pp., 25 figs., 45 tables, 6" × 9".

This text is presented as the first in a two-volume set, consisting of eight chapters by contributing North American anthropologists. Minnis chooses to extend the time frame of ethnobotany to the past, and therefore deal with methods of paleoethnobotany. Using these methods, the contributing authors delve into three subject areas: prehistoric use of plants, crop history and applications, and human impacts on local environments. This first volume is loosely contained by geographical boundaries into, as the title indicates, an overview of Eastern North America; its fellow, as yet unpublished, will cover the remaining Western North American region.

In a sixteen-page introduction, Minnis provides an historical overview of the field of paleoethnobotany, quite easily explained for those of us that may have little use for such long-strung terms. Following this are chapters that concentrate on the Central and Southern Woodlands (about which much work has been done in the past), native plant use, crop domestication and food production, anthropogenic ecology, and regional concentrations in the Northeast, the Great Plains, and in the Caribbean Islands.

While it may be implied that the only data set for the conclusions drawn in the text consists of micro- and macro-botanical remains, this is not entirely the case. In the foreword, Minnis clearly establishes that along with botanical remains, such things as ancient field distribution and plant images in art can be used to infer ancient ethnobotanical relationships. The contributing authors present their portions particularly well although, having worked with botanists but not belonging to the discipline themselves, tend to generalize and lump various evidences unto one name, whereas in botanical nomenclature, 'fruit' would be inadequate and demand further explanation.

This compilation reads surprisingly well and holds interesting and significant information for the concerned environmentally-minded reader, bringing attention to issues such as the fact that the majority of human food supply is derived from a play of only 20 crops, whereas paleoethnobotanical evidence uncovers a suite of tens of thousands of crops cultivated in the past.—*Tiana Franklin, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan St, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A., tfranklin@brit.org.*

SIDA 20(4): 1790. 2003